

Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate Weekly Update



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⚠ Sodium Valproate- Information for Primary Care (What does this mean for Community Pharmacy?)

There are well documented significant risks of serious harm to a baby after exposure to valproate in pregnancy. A number of new additional measures have been introduced by the MHRA aiming to ensure valproate is only used if other treatments are ineffective or not tolerated. Also that any valproate use in women of childbearing potential must be in accordance with the Pregnancy Prevention Programme (PPP/PREVENT).

NPSA alert relating to Valproate prescribing states all Health Boards must put the following requirements in place:

- Valproate must not be started in new patients (male or female) younger than 55 years, unless two specialists independently consider and document that there is no other effective or tolerated treatment, or there are compelling reasons that the reproductive risks do not apply.
- At their next annual specialist review, women of childbearing potential and girls should be reviewed using a revised valproate Risk Acknowledgement Form, which will include the need for a second specialist signature if the patient is to continue with valproate. Subsequent annual reviews require only one specialist signature, unless the patient's situation changes.

⚠ Important- Please see attached information on what this means for community pharmacy and access to valuable resources

Verification Certificate Renewal

A reminder regarding the verification certificate renewal for CPs which needs to be manually completed before 24th March. ***If the new certificate has not been installed on the PC where the ePharmacy adapter is installed, your pharmacy will no longer be able to download AMS or MCR (SRx) prescriptions, the electronic prescription data will not be displayed within your PMR and all details will require to be keyed.***

To avoid this happening, please download your pharmacy's replacement certificate as soon as possible. The download should only take a few minutes to complete, following the installation instructions which can be found at the following location: <http://www.eps.nds.scot.nhs.uk/VertCert/install.html>. Please

note that this certificate is common to all Community Pharmacies and the installation does not require any PIN or other pharmacy specific details to be entered.

If you encounter any problems running this tool please contact the ePharmacy Helpdesk by phone: 0131 275 6600 or email nss.psdhelp@nhs.scot.

Exception List: If you are part of one of the multiples groups or use one of the PMRs listed below, the renewal of the verification certificate will be undertaken by either your own IT department or PMR supplier and you do not need to undertake this renewal action.

- **Boots Rowlands**
- **Well**
- **Superdrug**
- **Asda**
- **RxWeb PMR**
- **Proscript Connect PMR**

Any pharmacies that do not fit into any of the above categories must follow the process detailed in this communication to update their own verification certificate.

National Centre for Remote & Rural Health & Care Series of Learning Events

The National Centre for Remote & Rural Health & Care is delivering a series of learning events building on the success of the previous Remote & Rural Series of Learning Events. These events will now run as the **National Centre for Remote & Rural Health & Care Series of Learning Events** and will continue to support remote, rural & island communities throughout Scotland.

Below you will find a list of sessions available from **March 2024 to June 2024**. Sessions will run online via MS Teams and will focus on primary and community care and will be relevant to a wide range of audiences including NES staff to support hybrid/remote working and continuous professional development. Some sessions will also be relevant to community members.

Session Title	Date	Time	Registration Link
Caring for Young Carers ***Pre-recorded Session***	Wednesday 27 March 2024	11.00am–12.00pm	Click here to Register
Crisis and Stress Management – Peer Support as an Effective Intervention ***Pre-recorded Session***	Wednesday 17 April 2024	2.00pm – 3.15pm	Click here to Register
NHS Highland Libraries: connecting evidence-informed decision-making to the evidence. Examples for Primary and Community Care in the Highlands	Tuesday 30 April 2024	2.00pm – 4.00pm	Click here to Register
Movement Disorders ***Pre-recorded Session***	Tuesday 14 May 2024	2.00pm – 3.00pm	Click here to Register
Respiratory Life after Covid ***Pre-recorded Session***	Wednesday 29 May 2024	2.00pm – 3.00pm	Click here to Register
Brain Tumour Awareness ***Pre-recorded Session***	Wednesday 12 June 2024	2.00pm – 3.00pm	Click here to Register
Palliative Care Nausea and Vomiting ***Pre-recorded Session***	Wednesday 26 June 2024	2.00pm – 3.00pm	Click here to Register

If you require any further information, please contact nes.ruralteam@nhs.scot

NHS Grampian Community Pharmacy Easter Monday Opening Hours

The Community Pharmacy opening hours for Easter Monday, 1st April 2024, have now been published on the NHS Community Pharmacy [website here](#).

Public Health Update

Period Poverty Update

We are pleased to confirm some updated ways for your patients to access free sanitary wear in Grampian. It's worth advising patients to download the "PickUpMyPeriod" App which lists all the organisations who supply free sanitary products. You can search by postcode. Some details of local initiatives below:

Aberdeen City

Community Initiatives North East (CFINE) can provide free sanitary products to all pharmacies within Aberdeen City. If you'd like to stock free products, please contact CFINE. They will deliver the products straight to the pharmacy and you can subsequently order on-demand or set up an automatic repeat delivery system. This is the direct contact for you specifically for period product orders: fsp@cfine.org

Aberdeenshire

There is no single point-of-contact for community pharmacies and delivery to pharmacies is challenging due to the geographical spread across Aberdeenshire but we are still exploring options. However, free period products are still available at community hubs around Aberdeenshire. There are distribution hubs confirmed in Huntly, Alford, Ballater, Inverurie, Banff, Fraserburgh, Maud, Peterhead, Banchory, Stonehaven, Portlethen, Laurencekirk and Edzell Woods (full details listed below)

Please advise patients to contact the individual organisations attached to update email to make an order. Different distribution hubs will ask for requests using differing methods and they will advise your patient on their preferred method.

Moray

Moray Food Plus can supply your pharmacy with free sanitary wear for redistribution to patients. Please see the form attached to update email to order your products.



Community Pharmacy Scotland Round-Up



PCA(P)(2024)02 - Additional Pharmaceutical Services NHS PFS - Updated PGDs

This Circular advises Health Boards and community pharmacy contractors of updated Patient Group Directions (PGDs) that are to be implemented for the treatment of shingles and skin infections under NHS Pharmacy First Scotland...

[Read More](#)

Verification Certificate Renewal Reminder

NSS have asked us to remind you of the requirement to renew the verification certificate which need to be completed before the 24th March 2024.

[Read More](#)



Tips For Recognising, Diagnosing and Treating Lyme Disease

Our colleagues at LDUK have put together the following information to help raise awareness of Lyme Disease amongst community pharmacy health professionals.

[Read More](#)



The Happy Place 😊

More breast cancers detected in first evaluation of breast screening AI

An artificial intelligence (AI) breast screening solution called Mia helped doctors find an additional 12 percent more cancers than in routine practice, as announced today in collaboration with Kheiron Medical Technologies, NHS Grampian, the University of Aberdeen and Microsoft. If deployed across the entire NHS, a 12 percent uplift in the detection of breast cancer could lead to better outcomes for thousands of women across the UK. The augmented AI workflow also showed a decrease in women recalled unnecessarily for further assessment and modelled a workload reduction of up to 30 percent.

[More Info Here.](#)

We would like to continue this section as an opportunity for reward, recognition and good news stories of the teams who read this! Please submit any items for inclusion to: gram.pharmaceuticalcareservices@nhs.scot.

All weekly updates are uploaded to the [CP Grampian website](#).

Remember to like our Facebook page for regular updates: [Community Pharmacy Grampian – NHSG](#)